Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

[0045] The centering and thus the common alignment of the two coupling parts 7 and 8 can be performed using various means and methods. A very simple construction is implemented in the embodiment. The coupling parts 7 and 8 and the switch plate 11 are here guided ~~so that they can move along~~ by a common guide tube 16 ~~passing through these parts~~ located in ~~their~~ a center region and a guide pin 17. The guide pin 17 is embodied here with a longitudinal slot for passing through a shaft 18 perpendicular to this pin.

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following amended paragraph:

[0051] Instead of the operating elements 10 lying laterally on the outside, at least one switch connecting link can also be provided between the coupling parts 7 and 8 (not shown). In a multicoupling device with four coupling units 1 to 4, for example, a single switch connecting link can be provided in the center between the four coupling units 1 to 4. Then, if, for example, six or more such coupling units are housed in common in one coupling device, there is the ability to form two or more units as two switch connecting links, which then, however, could still be activated by a common shaft 18 from the outside.

Please replace paragraph [0052] with the following amended paragraph:

[0052] In one such construction, the switch connecting link provided in the inner region between the coupling parts 7 and 8 is formed by an operating element 10 held on the shaft 18 and a pin (corresponding to the pin 14) held on the other coupling part 7. Here, the operating element 10 ~~can lie in a slot of the guide tube 16 and~~ is rotationally fixed to the shaft 18. The pin 14 interact~~sing~~ with the operating element 10 ~~is then inserted into a slot of the guide pin 17~~. In one such construction, the guide pin 17 has two crossing longitudinal slots. First, one slot is provided in order to be able to shift the guide pin 17 over the shaft 18 passing through the guide tube 16. Second, one slot is provided, in which the operating element can rotate in a guided way and can capture the pin 14 arranged in this slot. In a construction of this type, an additional variant can be provided, which can provide for a secure locking of the coupling units 1 to 4. Here, the locking with the operating element and the pin can be selected so that before the direct mutual end position of the coupling units, the guide pin 17 can be pushed no farther into the guide tube 16. Here, a spring element - for example, in the form of a disk spring or a disk-spring assembly - can be allocated to the guide pin 17, so that the guide pin 17 is lifted somewhat against the force of the spring element for a completely closed coupling device. Therefore, the coupling units 1 to 4 are pressed in a spring-loaded way in the closing direction.

Please replace paragraph [0053] with the following amended paragraph:

[0053] For simpler ~~handing~~ handling, handles 23~~, 24~~ for lifting and for transport are arranged on two opposite boundaries on at least one of the coupling parts 7 and 8.